

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 098141
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098141

NODIS
FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM MEXICO DATED APRIL 30, 1977 SENT
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 06463

NODIS
DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-2
TAGSC PFOR, MX
SUBJECT: LEE/BOYCE ESPIONAGE CASE

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI
REF.: STATE 093501

SUMMARY. JURY IS STILL OUT ON MEXICAN WITNESSES
TESTIMONY AT LEE TRIAL. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT HAS AUTHORIZED
CABINET CONSULTATIONS. FONSEC SAYS HE IS PURSUING
THEM VIGOROUSLY AND WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH. HE PROMISES
DEFINITIVE RESPONSE BY MONDAY, MAY 2. END SUMMARY.
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QM IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL ON TUESDAY, APRIL
26, I REQUESTED A MEETING WITH THE FONSEC. WHEN I HAD NOT
RECEIVED A RESPONSE BY NEXT DAY, I PRESSED FONSEC'S STAFF.
THEY LEGITIMATELY ARGUED THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ACT UPON
MY REQUEST BECAUSE OF SEC'S INVOLVEMENT IN VISIT OF SPANISH
PREMIER SUAREZ, BUT PROMISED TO SEEK RESPONSE FROM SEC

URGENTLY. THAT EVENING SEC HIMSELF TELEPHONED TO WELCOME ME BACK FROM WASHINGTON AND TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT EXPLAINING, AGAIN QUITE CORRECTLY, THAT AS THE SPANISH PREMIER DEPARTED THE CANADIAN FONMIN ARRIVED AND HE WAS AGAIN FULLY TIED UP. HE SAID THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE HE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF I COULD DEFER MY CALL ON HIM UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

2. I SAID THAT WHILE I HAD A NUMBER OF ITEMS I WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH HIM, THERE WAS ONE--THE LEE/BOYCE CASE--WHICH SIMPLY COULD NOT WAIT. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN OVER THIS CASE IN DETAIL AND THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO WOULD NOT AUTHORIZE MEXICAN POLICE WITNESSES TO GO TO U.S. TO TESTIFY.

3. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD HIS VIEW BUT I RECALLED THAT HE HAD COMMITTED HIMSELF TO TRY ONCE MORE TO PERSUADE THE PRESIDENT. I ADDED THAT THIS WAS NOW MORE URGENT THAN EVER. EXPLAINING THAT I HAD HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THIS CASE WITH SENIOR DEPT. OF JUSTICE OFFICIAL WHILE IN WASHINGTON, I BRIEFLY REVIEWED THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ARGUMENTS CONTAINED IN THE MEMO TRANSMITTED REFTEL.

4. SECRETARY ASKED IF I COULD GIVE HIM A PIECE OF PAPER HE COULD USE IN SPEAKING TO PRESIDENT. I SAID I WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO SO.

5. FONSEC SAID HE WAS DEPARTING ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOR MEETING WITH CANADIAN DELEGATION AT DOWNTOWN HOTEL AND HAD HOPES OF BEING ABLE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT LATER THAT EVENING.

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EVENING. IF I WOULD HAVE PAPER DELIVERED TO HIM AT THE HOTEL, HE WOULD MAKE USE OF IT ASAP. I THANKED HIM FOR HIS ASSISTANCE AND PROMISED HE WOULD HAVE HIS PIECE OF PAPER.

6. MEMORANDUM AS CONTAINED REFTEL WAS DELIVERED AT HOTEL LATER THAT EVENING AS ARRANGED.

7. ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT YET HAD 24 HOURS TO ACT UPON MY REQUEST, I ATTEMPTED TO SPEAK WITH FONSEC BY TELEPHONE LATE AFTERNOON YESTERDAY, APRIL 28. SECRETARY WAS OUT OF OFFICE BUT HIS STAFF PROMISED TO PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH ME TODAY. LATE THIS MORNING I AGAIN PLACED A CALL TO THE OFFICE OF SECY, TO BE INFORMED THAT HE WAS AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND NOT RETURNING TO SECRETARIAT UNTIL LATE THIS AFTERNOON, AT WHICH TIME THE STAFF WAS SURE HE WOULD CALL ME.

8. SECY ROEL CALLED ME THIS EVENING TO REPORT AS FOLLOWS: HE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE PRESIDENT, WHO WENT AS

FAR AS TO AUTHORIZE THE FONSEC TO CONSULT THE SECY OF INTERIOR AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. ROEL PROVIDED EACH OF THOSE MINISTERS WITH A COPY OF THE MEMO I HAD GIVEN HIM AND HAS BEEN PRESSING THEM FOR ACTION. HE SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE SOMETHING FOR ME BY MONDAY.

9. I EXPRESSED SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR HIS EFFORTS AND STRESSED DEPT. OF JUSTICE NEED FOR A REPLY BY MONDAY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE ITS TACTICS FOR PURSUING LEE TRIAL ALREADY IN PROGRESS.

10. SECRETARY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS HIS FELLOW CABINET MEMBERS FOR ACTION AND WOULD SEE TO IT THAT I HAD A DEFINITIVE REPLY TO OUR REQUEST ON MONDAY, MAY 2. THE FONSEC CONCLUDED BY CAUTIONING ME NOT TO DRAW OPTIMISTIC CONCLUSIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S AUTHORIZATION OF CABINET CONSULTATIONS ON THIS MATTER. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE SAID THERE ARE STILL SOME VERY DIFFICULT ISSUES INVOLVED FOR GOM. ULTIMATELY, GOM MAY BE UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH OUR REQUEST. HOWEVER, HE ASSURED ME THAT, SHOULD THAT BE THE RESULT, IT WOULD NOT BE FOR WANT OF EFFORT

ON HIS AND GOM PART TO TRY TO RENDER THE COOPERATION WE DESIRE.

11. I SHALL FOLLOW-UP WITH FONSEC ON MONDAY AND REPORT IMMEDIATELY. THOMPSON
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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